

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (USPTO)

Serial Number	09/887,413
Confirmation Number	8942
Filing Date	06/21 2001
Title of Application	Personal centralized alert delivery systems and methods of use
First Named Inventor	Yi-Min Wang
Assignee	Microsoft Corporation
Group Art Unit	2164
Examiner	AL HASHEMI, SANA A
Attorney Docket Number	MS1-0752US
Nature of this Document	Petition To Withdraw Holding of Abandonment under 37 CFR § 1.181

To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

From: Kayla D. Brant (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)
Customer No. 22801

Petition To Withdraw Holding of Abandonment under 37 CFR § 1.181

Applicant contends that the Notice of Abandonment regarding the above-mentioned application was issued in error. Accordingly, this petition under 37 CFR § 1.181(a) requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment is being filed. The petition under 37 CFR § 1.181, to withdraw the holding of abandonment, is being filed within 2 months of the mailing date of the Notice of Abandonment (May 13, 2008) and is therefore filed in a timely manner under 37 CFR § 1.181(f).

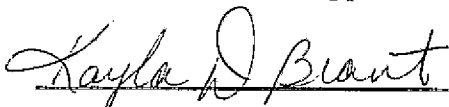
The following evidence is submitted herewith to prove that the Notice of Abandonment was issued erroneously:

1. A copy of pages 1 and 17 of the Decision on Appeal dated February 21, 2008, which indicates that the Applicant has the option to re-open prosecution by submitting, within 2 months, "an appropriate amendment of the claims so rejected or new evidence relating to the claims so rejected, or both, and have the matter reconsidered by the examiner, in which event the proceeding will be remanded to the examiner".
2. A copy of the Amendment as filed through the Electronic Filing System on April 21, 2008 including the acknowledgement receipt dated the same day.

This evidence proves that Applicant filed an appropriate amendment of the claims within the 2 months from the date of the Decision on Appeal. Accordingly, based on the Decision on Appeal, prosecution should have been reopened. Based on the evidence submitted herewith, Applicant requests that prosecution be reopened, and the Amendment submitted on April 21, 2008 be entered.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee & Hayes, PLLC
Representatives for Applicant



Kayla D. Brant (kayla@leehayes.com; x242)

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Dated: 6/13/08

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1 UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2
3
4 BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
5 AND INTERFERENCES
6

7
8 *Ex parte* YI-MIN WANG, PARAMVIR BAHL,
9 and WILF G. RUSSELL
10

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12 Appeal 2007-2388
13 Application 09/887,413¹
14 Technology Center 2100
15

16
17 Decided: February 19, 2008
18
19

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21 Before LANCE LEONARD BARRY, HOWARD B. BLANKENSHIP, and
22 CAROLYN D. THOMAS, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

23
24 THOMAS, C., *Administrative Patent Judge*.

25
26 DECISION ON APPEAL
27
28
29

1¹ Application filed June 21, 2001. The real party in interest is Microsoft
2 Corporation.

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37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b)

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37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b) provides that, “[a] new ground of rejection
4pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered final for judicial review.”

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37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b) also provides that the Appellants, *WITHIN TWO*
6*MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE DECISION*, must exercise one of the
7following two options with respect to the new grounds of rejection to avoid
8termination of proceedings (37 C.F.R. § 1.197 (b) as to the rejected claims):

9

(1) Reopen prosecution. Submit an appropriate amendment of the
10claims so rejected or new evidence relating to the claims so rejected,
11or both, and have the matter reconsidered by the examiner, in which
12event the proceeding will be remanded to the examiner ...

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14

(2) Request rehearing. Request that the proceeding be reheard under
1537 C.F.R. § 41.52 by the Board upon the same record ...

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VIII. CONCLUSIONS

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We conclude that Appellants have not shown that the Examiner erred
19in rejecting the claims.

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Thus, claims 1-42 are not patentable.

21

However, since we have entered a new ground of rejection against
22claims 35-42, our decision is not a final agency action.

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24

25

IX. DECISION

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Acknowledgement Receipt

The USPTO has received your submission at **17:49:03** Eastern Time on **21-APR-2008**.

No fees have been paid for this submission. Please remember to pay any required fees on time to prevent abandonment of your application.

eFiled Application Information

EFS ID	3185236
Application Number	09887413
Confirmation Number	8942
Title	Personal centralized alert delivery systems and methods of use
First Named Inventor	Yi-Min Wang
Customer Number or Correspondence Address	22801
Filed By	NingNing Xu/Carly Bokarica
Attorney Docket Number	MS1-752US
Filing Date	21-JUN-2001
Receipt Date	21-APR-2008
Application Type	Utility under 35 USC 111 (a)

Application Details

Submitted Files	Page Count	Document Description	File Size	Warnings
S45C-208042111210.pdf	31		648004 bytes	PASS
		Document Description	Page Start	Page End
		Miscellaneous Incoming Letter	1	1
		Amendment/Argument after BPAI Decision	2	31

This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

If you need help:

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- *Send general questions about USPTO programs to the [USPTO Contact Center \(UCC\)](#).*
- *If you experience technical difficulties or problems with this application, please report them via e-mail to [Electronic Business Support](#) or call 1 800-786-9199.*

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Serial No.09/887,413
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Confirmation No. 8942
First Named Inventor..... Yi-Min Wang
Assignee..... Microsoft Corporation
Group Art Unit2164
ExaminerSamuel G Rimell
Attorney's Docket No. MS1-0752US
Title: Personal centralized alert delivery systems and methods of use

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Fees will be paid by credit card through the EFS Web; however the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency of fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number 12-0769.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 04/21/08

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Assignee	Microsoft Corporation
Group Art Unit	2164
Examiner	Samuel G Rimell
Attorney Docket Number	MS1-0752US
Nature of the Office Communication to which this is responding	Appeal Decision
Date of the Office Communication	02/19/2008
Nature of this Document	Amendment

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P.O. Box 1450
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From: Kayla D. Brant (Tel. 509-324-9256; Fax 509-323-8979)
Customer No. 22801

Brief Summary of Selected Substantive Portions of this Response

[0001] Amendments are presented herein that address the new § 101 rejections raised by the Board of Appeals. Amendments are also presented here based on the reasoning provided by the Board of Appeals for affirming the Examiner's § 102 rejections of claims 1-42.

[0002] This brief summary is not intended to represent the Applicant's full response to the Action. Rather, it is merely a brief summary of selected substantive portions of the response herein.

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

None

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendment Summary

Claims pending

- Before this Amendment: Claims 1-42.
- After this Amendment: Claims 1-42

Non-Elected, Canceled, or Withdrawn claims: None

Amended claims: 1-5, 7-14, 16, 18-22, 24-26, 28, 30, and 32-42

New claims: None

Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method, comprising:
receiving at a centralized alert center, a user-submitted indication of an alert
source from which a user desires to receive alerts, wherein:
the centralized alert center is not directly associated with the alert source;
and
the alert source is configured to enable users to subscribe directly to the
alert source;
subscribing, by the centralized alert center, on behalf of the user, to the alert
source, such that alerts for the user are sent by the alert source to the centralized alert
center rather than to the user;

receiving at the centralized alert center, on behalf of the user, an alert for a-the
user, and on behalf of the user, from one of multiple alert sources the alert source;
mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode; and
based on the mapping, forwarding the same alert that was received ~~transmitting~~
~~the alert to the user according to the delivery mode.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein mapping
the alert that was received to a delivery mode ~~further comprises~~ mapping the alert
according to the alert source of the alert.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein mapping
the alert that was received to the delivery mode ~~further comprises~~ mapping the alert
according to content of the alert content.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the
delivery mode specifies a delivery method used to deliver-forward the same alert that was
received to the user, and wherein the-transmitting further-forwarding the same alert that
was received to the user according to the delivery mode comprises transmitting the same
alert that was received to the user via the delivery method indicated in the delivery mode.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery action that indicates a delivery method to be used to ~~deliver forward~~ the same alert that was received and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and the method further comprises waiting for an acknowledgement to the alert if the delivery mode indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected.

6. **(Original)** The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the delivery action specifies a time period to wait for an acknowledgement if an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, and wherein the waiting further comprises waiting the specified time period for an acknowledgement to the alert.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:
the delivery mode ~~further specifies~~ a first delivery method used to ~~deliver forward~~ the same alert that was received;

the delivery mode ~~further specifies~~ a second delivery method used to ~~deliver forward~~ the same alert that was received;

the second delivery method is different than the first delivery method; and

forwarding the same alert that was received ~~the transmitting further comprises~~ transmitting the same alert that was received to the user via the first delivery method and the second delivery method as indicated by the delivery mode.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises:

defining one or more categories of alerts;

assigning a delivery mode to each category; and

categorizing the alert, thereby mapping the alert to the delivery mode of the category.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 8, wherein mapping the alert that was received to a delivery mode further comprising assigning a priority to each category, and wherein ~~the~~ assigning a delivery mode to each category ~~further~~ comprises assigning a delivery mode to a category based on the priority assigned to the category.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

mapping the alert that was received to the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises:

mapping the alert that was received to a primary delivery block specifying a first delivery action that specifies a first delivery method, and a secondary delivery block specifying a second delivery action that specifies a second delivery method, wherein the second delivery method is not the same as the first delivery method; and

~~transmitting~~ forwarding the alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises:

transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action; ~~and~~

if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is successful, preventing the alert that was received from being transmitted to the user according to the second delivery action; and

if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful, transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the second delivery action ~~if transmitting the alert to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful.~~

11. **(Currently Amended)** The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the first and second delivery actions each further specify ~~indicate a delivery method to be used to deliver the alert and~~ whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and the method further comprises:

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the first delivery action if the first delivery action ~~indicates~~ specifies that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected; and

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the second delivery action if the second delivery action ~~indicates~~ specifies that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, provided the alert is transmitted according to the secondary delivery action.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein:

the first delivery action further specifies a ~~indicates first and second~~ third delivery methods ~~method~~, wherein the third delivery method is not the same as the first delivery method; and

if transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful, transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the second delivery action comprises determining that transmitting the alert that was received to the user according to the first delivery action is unsuccessful ~~the transmitting the alert to the user according to the second delivery action further comprises transmitting the alert to the user according to the second delivery action if either the first delivery method or the second~~ third delivery method indicated in the first delivery action fails to result in transmission of the alert that was received to the user.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein:

each of the first and second delivery actions further-comprises specifies:

~~a delivery method to be used to deliver the alert;~~

whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected; and

a time period to wait for an acknowledgement if an acknowledgement to the alert ~~is~~ should be expected; and

the method further comprises:

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the first delivery action if the first delivery action indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert is expected; and

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the second delivery action if the second delivery action indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, provided that the alert was transmitted according to the secondary delivery action.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the primary delivery block and the secondary delivery block each specify a first delivery action that indicates a first delivery method to be used to deliver the alert and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, and a second delivery action that indicates a second delivery method, which is different than the first delivery method, to be used to deliver the alert and whether an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, the method further comprising:

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to each delivery action of the primary delivery block that indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected; and

waiting for an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to each delivery action of the secondary delivery block that indicates that an acknowledgement to the alert should be expected, provided the alert is transmitted according to the delivery actions of the secondary delivery block.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein each delivery action that indicates to wait for an acknowledgement specifies a time period to wait for an acknowledgement, and wherein waiting for an acknowledgement further comprises waiting the specified time period for an acknowledgement.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A centralized alert delivery system, comprising:
an input/output (I/O) module configured to receive alerts from multiple alert sources, wherein:

each of the multiple alert sources is configured to enable users to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the alert source; and

the centralized alert delivery system is configured as an intermediary that enables a user to direct the centralized alert delivery system to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the multiple alert sources on behalf of the user, thereby enabling the user to receive alerts from the alert source without providing any user contact information to the alert source;

a mapping module configured to map an alert received on behalf of a user from one of the multiple alert sources to a delivery mode; and

a communications layer that interfaces to one or more communications modules, the communications layer being configured to receive the mapped alert and deliver the alert to the user via a communications module according to the delivery mode associated with the alert.

17. **(Original)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the mapping module is further configured to map the alert according to the source of the alert.

18. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the alert ~~further~~ comprises content, and wherein the mapping module is further configured to map the alert according to the content of the alert.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the delivery mode specifies a delivery action that indicates a delivery method by which an alert ~~associated with~~ mapped to the delivery mode is transmitted.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 19, wherein the delivery method is chosen from ~~one of the following~~ a group of delivery methods consisting of: e-mail, instant messaging, SMS (short message service) messaging.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the delivery mode ~~further~~-comprises one or more delivery blocks, each delivery block ~~including-specifying~~ one or more delivery actions, each delivery action specifying:

a delivery method by which an alert associated with the delivery mode is ~~transmitted~~ delivered;

whether an acknowledgement to the alert is expected; and

if an acknowledgement to the alert is expected, a time to wait for the acknowledgement.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein the delivery mode ~~further~~-comprises one or more delivery blocks, each delivery block ~~including-specifying~~ one or more delivery actions, each delivery action specifying a delivery method by which the associated alert is ~~transmitted~~ delivered and whether an acknowledgement to the transmitted alert is expected.

23. **(Original)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 22, wherein each delivery action that indicates an acknowledgement is expected further specifies a time to wait for the acknowledgement.

24. (Currently Amended) The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein:

the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises a primary delivery block and a secondary delivery block; and

the communications layer is further configured ~~to~~ to:

deliver the alert to the user via the one or more communications modules according to a delivery method specified in the primary delivery block;

~~and, if delivery according to the primary delivery block fails, to deliver the alert according to a delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block; and~~

if delivery according to the primary delivery block succeeds, preventing the alert from being delivered according to the delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block.

25. (Currently Amended) The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a primary delivery block that includes a first delivery action that specifies a first delivery method and a second delivery action that specifies a second delivery method, wherein the second delivery method is different than the first delivery method; and

the communications layer is further configured to deliver the alert via the one or more communications modules according to the first delivery method specified in the first delivery action and according to the second delivery method specified in the second delivery action.

26. **(Currently Amended)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 25, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a secondary delivery block; and

the communications layer is further configured to ~~delivery~~:

deliver the alert via the one or more communications modules according to a delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block if the delivery of the alert according to either the first delivery action or the second delivery action in the primary delivery block fails; and

prevent delivery of the alert via the one or more communications modules according to a delivery method specified in the secondary delivery block if the delivery of the alert according to the primary delivery block succeeds.

27. **(Previously presented)** The centralized alert delivery system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

a categories module that identifies categories into which an alert may be categorized, wherein each category has an associated delivery mode; and

the mapping module is further configured to categorize the alert into a category identified in the categories module thereby associating the alert with the delivery mode of the category.

28. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor;

an I/O module;

memory; and

an alert center stored in the memory, the alert center including:

a subscription layer configured to;

receive a request from a user to subscribe to a particular alert source on behalf of the user, wherein the alert source is not directly affiliated with the alert center;

subscribe to the particular alert source on behalf of the user;

receive an alert from ~~an~~ the alert source and assign a delivery mode to the alert; and

a communications layer configured to transmit the same alert that was received to the user according to a delivery mode assigned to the alert.

29. (Original) The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein the alert center is further configured to monitor for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully delivered.

30. **(Currently Amended)** The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein the alert center is further configured to monitor for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully delivered according to a first delivery method associated with the delivery mode and, if an acknowledgment is not received within a specified time period, assign a backup delivery method to the alert and attempt to deliver the alert according to the backup delivery method, wherein the backup delivery method is different than the first delivery method.

31. **(Original)** The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a primary delivery block having a first delivery action and a second delivery action; and

the communications layer is further configured to transmit the alert according to the first delivery action and the second delivery action of the primary delivery block.

32. (Currently Amended) The computer system as recited in ~~claim 31~~ claim 28, wherein:

the delivery mode further comprises a primary delivery block having a delivery action and a secondary delivery block having a delivery action; and

the communications layer is further configured to transmit the alert according to the delivery action of the primary delivery block and, if delivery of the alert according to the primary delivery block fails, to transmit the alert according to the delivery action of the secondary delivery block.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer system as recited in claim 31, wherein:

~~the delivery action of the primary delivery block is a first delivery action;~~

~~the primary delivery block further comprises a second delivery action;~~

the first delivery action and the second delivery action further comprise a time to wait for an acknowledgement that the alert was received; and

the communications layer is further configured to transmit the alert according to the delivery action of the secondary delivery block if an acknowledgement to the transmission of the alert according to the first delivery action or the second delivery action of the primary delivery block is not received ~~with~~ within the time to wait identified by the first delivery action and the second delivery action, respectively.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer system as recited in claim 28, wherein:

the subscription layer ~~further comprises~~ comprises:

a categories module that includes one or more categories into which an alert may be categorized, each category having a delivery mode associated therewith; and

~~the subscription layer further comprises~~ a mapping module configured to categorize an alert received from an alert source, thereby associating the delivery mode of the category with the alert.

35. (Currently Amended) One or more ~~computer-readable computer storage~~ media containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed on a computer, ~~perform the following~~ direct the computer to perform a method comprising:

subscribing to an alert source on behalf of a user, wherein the alert source is configured to enable users to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the alert source;

receiving, on behalf of the user, an alert from one of a plurality of alert sources the alert source;

determining a delivery mode which specifies a delivery method by which the alert should be forwarded to ~~a~~ the user; and

transmitting the same alert that was received to the user according to the delivery mode.

36. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein ~~the determining a primary~~ the delivery mode further comprises:

- determining the alert source from which the alert originated;
- identifying a category associated with the alert source; and
- identifying a delivery mode associated with the category.

37. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein ~~the transmitting the alert further according to the delivery mode~~ comprises:

- identifying a delivery action associated with the delivery mode; and
- transmitting the alert according to the delivery action.

38. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~computer-readable~~ computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein ~~the transmitting the alert further according to the delivery mode~~ comprises:

- identifying a first delivery action associated with the delivery mode;
- identifying a second delivery action associated with the delivery mode; and
- transmitting the alert according to the first delivery action and the second delivery action.

39. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~computer-readable~~-computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein:

the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises a primary delivery block that specifies one or more delivery actions, and a secondary delivery block that specifies one or more delivery actions; and

~~the~~-transmitting the alert to the user according to the delivery mode ~~further~~ comprises transmitting the alert to the user according to the delivery action of the primary delivery block and, if the transmission according to the delivery action of the primary delivery block fails, transmitting the alert to the user according to the delivery action of the secondary delivery block.

40. (Currently Amended) The one or more ~~computer-readable~~-computer storage media as recited in claim 39, wherein:

the primary delivery block comprises first and second delivery actions; and

the transmission of the alert according to the primary delivery block is deemed to fail if the transmission of the alert according to the first or second delivery actions fails.

41. **(Currently Amended)** The one or more ~~computer-readable~~computer storage media as recited in claim 39, wherein:

the primary delivery block comprises first and second delivery actions; and

the transmission of the alert according to the primary delivery block is deemed to fail if the transmission of the alert according to both the first and second delivery actions fails.

42. **(Currently Amended)** The one or more ~~computer-readable~~computer storage media as recited in claim 35, wherein the method further comprising~~comprises~~ monitoring for an acknowledgement that the alert was successfully received by the user.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. Claims 1-42 are presently pending. Claims amended herein are: 1-5, 7-14, 16, 18-22, 24-26, 28, 30, and 32-42. No claim are added, withdrawn, or cancelled herein.

Formal Request for an Interview

[0003] If the Examiner's reply to this communication is anything other than allowance of all pending claims, then I formally request an interview with the Examiner. I encourage the Examiner to call me—the undersigned representative for the Applicant—so that we can talk about this matter so as to resolve any outstanding issues quickly and efficiently over the phone.

[0004] Please contact me to schedule a date and time for a telephone interview that is most convenient for both of us. While email works great for me, I welcome your call as well. My contact information may be found on the last page of this response.

Claim Amendments

[0005] Without conceding the propriety of the rejections herein and in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant amends claims 1-5, 7-14, 16, 18-22, 24-26, 28, 30, and 32-42 herein. Applicant amends claims to clarify claimed features. Such amendments are made to expedite prosecution and more quickly identify allowable subject matter. Such amendments are merely intended to clarify the claimed features, and should not be construed as further limiting the claimed invention in response to the cited reference.

[0006] Support for the claim amendments presented herein may be found at least at the following locations of the specification, as originally filed: Summary, paragraph 3; Fig. 3; Fig. 9; page 16-17; and pages 20-21.

Substantive Matters

Claim Rejections under § 101

[0007] Claims 35-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Furthermore, in light of the amendments presented herein, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims comply with the patentability requirements of §101 and that the §101 rejections should be withdrawn.

[0008] In issuing the 101 rejection, the Board indicates that claims 35-42 each recite “computer-readable media” and that the specification states that the “computer-readable media may comprise...‘communications media’...” (Decision on Appeal, page 15.) Claims 35-42 have each been amended to recite “computer storage media”, rather than “computer-readable media”. On page 14 of the specification, a distinction is made between “communications media” and “computer storage media” – each of which may be considered “computer readable media”. Computer storage media is not described as including carrier waves or signals. Accordingly, Applicant submits that, as amended, claims 35-42 meet the patentability requirements of §101.

Claim Rejections under § 102

[0009] Claims 1-42 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102. In light of the amendments presented herein, Applicant submits that these rejections are moot. Accordingly, Applicant asks the Examiner to withdraw these rejections.

[0010] Specifically, the Decision on Appeal addresses claims 1, 10, 16, and 35, as being representative of the other claims. On page 10 of the Decision, the Board states:

- the claimed “alert” reads on any electronically transmitted, user-requested information; and
- the claimed “alert sources” includes any source which can transmit information electronically

[0011] Claim 1 has been amended to distinguish a centralized alert center from an alert source, to clarify that the centralized alert center is not directly associated with the alert source, to clarify that the alert source is configured to enable users to subscribe directly to the alert source; to clarify that the centralized alert center *acts on the user's behalf* to subscribe to and receive alerts from an alert source for the user, and to clarify that the alert that is received on the user's behalf from the alert source is the same alert that is forwarded to the user.

[0012] Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-15 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1. Furthermore, dependent claims 2-5 and 7-14 are amended to maintain consistent language with independent claim 1, as amended. One or more of these claims may also be allowable for one or more other independent reasons.

[0013] For example, regarding claim 10, the Board states that, “Although Appellants’ claim 10 requires a first and second delivery action, there is no requirement that the delivery actions be different from each other.” (Decision, page 13.)

[0014] Claim 10 has been amended herein to clarify that, “the second delivery method is not the same as the first delivery method.”

[0015] Independent claim 16 has been amended similarly as claim 1, to clarify that:

- each of the multiple alert sources is configured to enable users to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the alert source; and
- the centralized alert delivery system is configured as an intermediary that enables a user to direct the centralized alert delivery system to subscribe to receive alerts directly from the multiple alert sources on behalf of the user, thereby enabling the user to receive alerts from the alert source without providing any user contact information to the alert source.

[0016] Applicant submits that dependent claims 17-27 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 16. Furthermore, dependent claims 18-22 and 24-26 are amended to maintain consistent language with independent claim 16, as amended. One or more of these claims may also be allowable for one or more other independent reasons.

[0017] Claim 28 is amended herein to recite elements similar to those recited in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 28 is allowable for reasons similar to the reasons for which claim 1 is allowable.

[0018] Applicant submits that dependent claims 29-34 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 28. Furthermore, dependent claims 30 and 32-34 are amended to maintain consistent language with independent claim 28, as amended. One or more of these claims may also be allowable for one or more other independent reasons.

[0019] Claim 35 has been amended to recite elements similar to those recited in claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 35 is therefore allowable for reasons similar to those given above with reference to claim 1.

[0020] Applicant submits that dependent claims 36-42 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 35. Furthermore, dependent claims 36-42 are amended to maintain consistent language with independent claim 35, as amended. One or more of these claims may also be allowable for one or more other independent reasons.

Dependent Claims

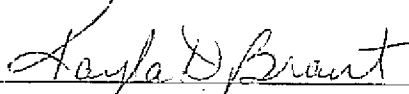
[0021] In addition to its own merits, each dependent claim is allowable for the same reasons that its base claim is allowable. Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of each dependent claim where its base claim is allowable.

Conclusion

[0022] All pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the **Examiner is urged to contact me before issuing a subsequent Action.** Please call or email me or my assistant at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,

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